

For Six Month Period Ending

7/31
June 30, 2008
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant

Melroe Communications

(h) Registration No.

5846

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

*13009 Coltingwood Terrace
Silver Spring, MD 20904*

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

(a) If an individual:

(1) Residence address(es)

Yes ☐

No ☐

(2) Citizenship

Yes ☐

No ☐

(3) Occupation

Yes ☐

No ☐

(b) If an organization:

(1) Name

Yes ☐

No ☒

(2) Ownership or control

Yes ☐

No ☒

(3) Branch offices

Yes ☐

No ☒

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

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IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date connection ended
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- (b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

- (b) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
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- (c) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

Embassy of Azerbaijan

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Embassy of Azerbaijan

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A³Yes ☐No ☐Exhibit B⁴Yes ☐No ☐

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during the 6 month period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits?

Yes ☐No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9).) A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157), sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155), sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Please see addendum I.

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates and places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

*Details undertaken ~~that~~ on behalf of foreign principal
that could be defined/construed as "political activities"
are set forth in response to Item 11.*

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS - MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, explain why.

client already paid, see original filing.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶.

Date	From whom	Purpose	Amount
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Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS - THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS – MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To whom	Purpose	Amount
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See addendum 2.

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS – THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS – POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
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^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
 Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Embassy of Azerbaijan

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio or TV broadcasts | <input type="checkbox"/> Magazine or newspaper articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion picture films | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters or telegrams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising campaigns | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Press releases | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamphlets or other publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures or speeches |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public officials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislators | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editors | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational institutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic groups or associations | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

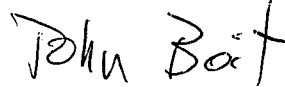

Yes ☐ No ☒

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI – EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

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¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

Addendum 1

- Provided consulting to media section of Embassy
- Edited press releases for grammar
- Assisted in distributing press releases through PR Newswire
- Provided news summaries and analysis
- Assisted in event planning for Georgetown-Azerbaijan Academic Conference (March 25, 2008)
- Assisted in event planning for May 7 photo exhibit/reception at Mount Vernon.
- Scheduled meeting between Ambassador and Prof. Joe Nye, Harvard University on or about Jan. 29, 2008
- Lunch meeting with Seth Gitell, blogger/New York Sun writer in Boston on Jan. 29
- Interview with Rachel Axelbank of Jewish Advocate in Boston on Jan. 30
- Invited officials in Cleveland, Ohio to opening of Azerbaijan Cultural Garden on or about May 12, including mayor's communications director Maureen Harper, Chief of Staff Ken Silliman, government relations chief Valarie McCall, special assistant Michael Mendolera in Mayor Frank Jackson's office, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones office.
- Assisted in preparing brochure on Azerbaijani Cultural Garden in Cleveland
- Emailed reporter Robert Smith at the Plain Dealer on or about May 11 about Cultural Garden opening

Addendum 2

Jan-June 2008

Date	Description	Amount
<u>Transportation</u>		
23-Jan	airfare to DC-Boston	628.00
30-Jan	Dulles airport parking	30.00
29-Jan	Boston Common Garage	16.00
30-Jan	Boston Common Garage	18.00
2-Apr	airfare DC-Cleveland	859.00
2-Apr	airfare DC-Cleveland	859.00
28-Apr	airfare DC-Cleveland	187.00
30-Apr	transportation rental in Cleveland	650.00
30-Apr	airfare DC-Baku	6348.00
5-May	airfare (three tickets) DC-Cleveland	2754.00
12-May	car rental - Cleveland	486.78
12-May	Dulles airport parking	100.00
19-May	Dulles airport parking	95.00
<u>Accommodation and meals</u>		
29-Jan	Oceanaire restaurant	307.47
30-Jan	Taj Hotel Restaurant (lunch with Seth Gitell)	138.68
10-Apr	Crowne Plaza Cleveland	130.88
8-May	Intercontinental Cleveland	1245.21
19-May	Hyatt Hotel, meals in Baku	3460.25
<u>Consulting</u>		
8-May	photographer/Mount Vernon event	600.00
<u>Distribution/postage/promotional</u>		
18-Jan	press release distribution	955.00
22-Feb	press release distribution	680.00
11-Mar	press release distribution	680.00
24-Apr	flags and stands	152.28
28-Apr	lapel flag pins	1350.00
6-May	additional flags and stands	480.00
12-May	Internet and printing in Cleveland	76.88
12-May	printing road signs for garden opening	625.26
15-May	press release distribution	1050.00
17-Jun	Foster Reprints	638.00
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
24-Apr	Ritz camera (supplies)	26.95



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

In commemoration of the 85th jubilee
of the National Leader of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev

**Dedication of the
Azerbaijani
Cultural Garden
and the sculpture
“Hearth”**

Cleveland, Ohio
May 12, 2008

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Yashar Aliyev

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States



Five years ago, the idea of Azerbaijan contributing a garden of its own to the esteemed and internationally recognized Cleveland Cultural Gardens began to take shape. Today, Azerbaijan commemorates the 85th jubilee of its National Leader Heydar Aliyev, who was a steadfast supporter of this monument to intercultural tolerance and understanding.

Dedicated people have made this day possible. Azerbaijan's first Ambassador to the United States, Hafiz Pashayev, initiated the vision of an Azerbaijani Garden. Congressman Dennis Kucinich gave his full support to this Garden. Dr. George Parras of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation worked tirelessly to advance it through all its stages of development. And, of course, we wholeheartedly applaud Mr. Khanlar Gasimov, whose beautiful and impressive sculpture "Hearth" forms the centerpiece of this place of contemplation and inspiration.

The Azerbaijani Cultural Garden brings a new dimension to the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. The abstract form of "Hearth" offers itself up to introspection and reflection. Its form is created from a philosophical depth, inspired by Azerbaijan's tremendous artistic and literary history.

In Azerbaijan, the hearth holds a sacred place in the home. It is a source of warmth, a place of gathering for the family, and a symbol of love. I have no doubt that the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden will be viewed similarly here in Cleveland.

It is indeed a great honor to celebrate this moment with members of Cleveland's fine leaders and citizens, and to represent my country as we commemorate this historic dedication. It is my strong belief that the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden will forever be among the city's favorite parks, where people of all nations can celebrate peace, mutual understanding and friendship.

Hafiz Pashayev

Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan
First Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States (1993-2006)



Looking back at my years in Washington as Ambassador, I recall many accomplishments. Among them, only a few can be considered as a legacy. I can proudly say that the idea to create the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden, as part of the larger and historic Cleveland Cultural Gardens, as an international symbol of peace and brotherhood, is in this category.

I was delighted to find the Cleveland Cultural Garden during visits here with President Heydar Aliyev, seven years ago. After walking through the many different gardens from so many different countries, I went to him with the idea of creating Azerbaijan's own. He immediately embraced the idea, and was a driving force in making it happen.

I am pleased to share this honor with our country's current Ambassador Yashar Aliyev, and many others who were involved in seeing this project through to its realization. I want to especially thank Cleveland's own Dr. George Parras, whose devoted leadership, vision and tenacity in promoting the Cleveland Cultural Gardens the world over has been exemplary. Without his support, we would not be celebrating this wonderful event today.

Although we are separated by geography, the Cleveland Cultural Gardens celebrate the unity of nations and the common goal of peace and understanding. The City of Cleveland, its leaders, its citizens, and all who have made this day possible, can be proud of these grounds as a shining example to the world of what may be accomplished when we come together.

"Hearth"

For centuries, Azerbaijan was a mecca for fire worshippers who came to see the flames from gas deposits seeping from the ground that had ignited and burned since before written history. Making their pilgrimage from faraway lands, these ancient fire worshippers brought to Azerbaijan myriad elements from distant cultures.

Now Azerbaijan is a newly independent country with aspirations to serve as an important source of artistic and spiritual inspiration to the world. This is reflected in the sculpture, "Ojag", which from the Azerbaijani language translates to "Hearth".

Situated as the centerpiece of the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden in Cleveland's Rockefeller Park, "Hearth" alludes to the country's recent re-birth, emerging into its own unique form after being hidden from the world for over 80 years.

At the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Azerbaijan has for centuries given the world literature, art, and music that enriched all of civilization. The notion of crossroads was equally important to sculptor Khanlar Gasimov, who walked for hours and hours through the park on a snowy day several years ago looking for the perfect garden site. He found it when he came to the triangular patch of land at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and East Boulevard.

The 43-year-old Gasimov, who was born in Baku and now lives in Connecticut with his wife and children, was inspired for the design in part by the 12th century Azerbaijani poet, Nizami Ganjavi, and his epic poem "Leyli and Majnun." The poem tells the story of a man so in love with a woman that he begins seeing his beloved everywhere, reflected in every natural phenomenon he lays eyes upon.

Another source of inspiration was the 14th century Azerbaijani mystic philosopher Imadeddin Nasimi, who expressed the living connection between the microcosmos and the macrocosmos, broadly hinting at the infinite possibilities that beckon the true spiritual seeker on the inward journey.

"Hearth" is made from eight tons of highly polished stainless steel. Resistant to corrosion and fluctuating temperatures, this metal is able to withstand the unforgiving action of the elements. It stands five feet high, allowing the viewer to see the reflection of the earth along its sides and the reflection of the sky in its 18-foot diameter interior curves.

The curving granite bench alongside the sculpture is also designed with reflection in mind, reinforced by the words etched into the stone: "Azerbaijan—land of eternal fire, ignites the imagination, warms the spirit and kindles the soul."

"Hearth" reveals the spiritual and cultural essence of Azerbaijan, a confluence of diverse cultures, east and west, north and south, old and new, and its potential to once again serve as an endless source of inspiration for those who aspire to spiritual and artistic heights. Its physical form, with its definitive height and diameter, represents limits, containment, and the finite, while the circles themselves represent boundlessness, openness, and infinity.

A History of the Cultural Gardens

By Dr. George Parras

Past President of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation

In the late 1800s and early 1900s the City of Cleveland played a leading role in the Industrial Revolution and, as such, was composed of a population so diverse in ethnic and racial backgrounds that it essentially represented a microcosm of the world. Tension and friction existed between many of the ethnic communities largely as a result of a misunderstanding of, and an unwillingness to accept beliefs, customs or practices that were "foreign". It may be that the concept of "Americanism" that was becoming widely popular was no coincidence, but rather a response to the xenophobia that gripped our nation. We could neutralize our pluralism by creating an American culture with its own customs, beliefs and traditions, different from other nations. It is true that when people arrived here through Ellis Island and other ports of entry around the country, most felt compelled to change their names and shed their past to better fit in the New World.

It was in this environment that the idea of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens was born. The visionary of the Cultural Gardens concept was Leo Weidenthal, editor of the Cleveland Jewish News. Operating under the premise that "True cultures impose no barriers of race or creed," the Gardens would recognize the immense value of our cultural diversity and serve as a symbol to the ideal of universal peace and brotherhood - a true and lasting peace that could only be achieved through an understanding of our differences. The idea of the Cultural Gardens directly opposed the concept of "Americanism".

It recognized that this country, perhaps more than any other, was built on the ideals, the hopes and dreams, the customs and traditions of many people of many nations and that throughout our history, the constant infusion of new ideas and new ways has enriched us as a people and made us great as a nation. It held that our true identity existed in our multiculturalism and that by recognizing this we could respect and accept one another and peacefully coexist.

The idea of linking peace to a mutual understanding across cultures was so powerful that it was recognized internationally. Dignitaries from all over the world visited the Gardens. In fact, several years after the major sites were built, the Gardens were visited by Guillaume Fatio, the founder of the League of Nations, later the United Nations. His purpose was to use the Gardens as a model for a similar concept to be built in Ariana Park, the grounds of the future headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Anthony J. Celebrezze, a former mayor of the City of Cleveland, fully understood the universal message of the Cultural Gardens when he said the following, "I hope and trust that the basic concept behind the Cultural Gardens of Cleveland will provide the necessary impetus in the movement for better understanding among all people, and among all nations throughout the world."

The Cultural Gardens lie in Rockefeller Park, a 254-acre tranquil ravine like setting that spans two miles between University Circle, Cleveland's cultural center to the South, and Lake Erie to the North. John D. Rockefeller donated the land for the park to his city in 1896 in celebration of Cleveland's first centennial. Ernest Bowditch, a renowned Boston landscape architect designed a meandering parkway flanked by wide-open green space framed by steeply sloped terrain.

Today, May 12, 2008, we are extremely pleased to welcome the newest addition to these spectacular Gardens, the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden and its centerpiece sculpture "Hearth," that serves as a symbol of hope, peace, reflection, and understanding for generations to come.

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In my inaugural address, I outlined my vision for the City of Cleveland — that we would be one city, one people, living and working together. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens support that vision and highlight the incredible diversity of this great City.

Part of what makes Cleveland so great is our rich heritage and cultural diversity. With more than 75 different ethnic groups calling Cleveland home, Cleveland reflects the people of not only the United States, but the world. And, although there are differences in our heritage, traditions and culture, we in Cleveland are united by our common vision of a great City.

Today, I am honored to attend the dedication of the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden. It is symbolic of the mission of my Administration and the Cultural Gardens — to embrace Cleveland's cultural diversity and to make one community.

Mayor Frank G. Jackson
City of Cleveland

"In Rockefeller Parkway, along the steep hillsides, between the upper and lower driveways of the East Boulevard, cling the Cleveland Cultural gardens, with individual units or links, each emblazoning a distinct message of cultural aspiration; each singing a song of the far away homeland of a people that is building a new and in that process of contributing of its own inner cultural and spiritual wealth. Every gem in this diadem tells not only its own loveliness, but in reflection radiates the color and beauty of its neighbor."

Leo Weidenthal, founder of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens

"Cleveland's Cultural Gardens are accomplishing in their community the same thing that the League of Nations is trying to do for the world."

Guillaume Fatio, representative of the League of Nations
during his visit to Cleveland in 1935

"I cannot think of another monument quite like (the Cleveland Cultural Gardens), even if we include Washington, D.C. itself."

John Bodnar, Cancellors' Professor and Chair
Indiana University

"There is no physical parallel to them elsewhere in the nation... It certainly can be argued that by establishing the Cultural Gardens, Cleveland set an example for dealing with diversity, an example that much of America would 'catch up to' only in the 1960s."

John Grabowski, Professor of History
Case Western Reserve University

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ramil Huseynli

JANUARY 18, 2008

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(202) 337-3500

Azerbaijanis Commemorate Black January

Invasion of Azerbaijan's Capital City 18 Years Ago

Was Precursor to Collapse of the Soviet Empire

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Azerbaijanis will pause this weekend to pay tribute to their fellow citizens who were killed in one of the most brutal acts in the last moments of the Soviet Empire, an event known around the world as Black January.

Black January occurred when Moscow ordered 26,000 Soviet troops to invade Azerbaijan's capital Baku. In the early morning hours and into the day of Jan. 20, 1990, Soviet troops attacked innocent civilians, slaughtering 133 people and wounding approximately 700.

The use of force by the Soviet regime was a response to Azerbaijan's popular demand for independence. Ultimately, this invasion ignited a series of events which led to the independence of Azerbaijan and other republics a year and a half later.

The world watched in horror as the Soviet Army invaded Baku, firing indiscriminately at civilians, some of whom were merely watching events from their windows or the sidewalks. Western reporters were banned from travelling to Baku to cover the events, but the *Washington Post* on Jan. 22, 1990 quoted an eyewitness who said, "Soviet soldiers fired at almost anything that moved in the early hours of their occupation."

According to a report published by Human Rights Watch, "among the most heinous violations of human rights...were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and even hospitals." The report further stated that the punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers appeared to have been intended as a warning to Azerbaijan as well as to the other Republics of the Soviet Union seeking independence.

Soviet troops eventually withdrew from Baku, and Azerbaijan declared its independence on October 18, 1991. Azerbaijan has maintained its independence since then despite the military occupation of 20 percent of its territory by Armenia.

Many political analysts today believe the Soviet Empire sealed its own fate in Baku on January 20, as it became readily apparent to other republics that not even such brutal military tactics could extinguish the hopes and dreams of a people seeking freedom and independence.

In commemoration of those who died 18 years ago, the people of Azerbaijan will once again pay tribute to the victims of Black January who paid the highest price for the independence of their country.

Prepared by the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States



2741 34th Street, NW, Washington DC, 20008 – Tel.: (202) 337-3500 Fax: (202) 337-5911

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 22, 2008

CONTACT: Ramil Huseynli
r_huseynli@azembassy.us

Azerbaijan Remembers Victims of Khojaly Massacre

Armenian Troops Slaughtered Innocent Townspeople 16 Years Ago

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Azerbaijanis around the world will commemorate one of the most tragic days in their history next week, marking the 16th year that has passed since hundreds of innocent men, women and children from the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan were slaughtered by Armenian troops.

The Khojaly massacre at the hands of Armenian troops stands as one of history's most chillingly brutal military acts against unarmed civilians.

On February 25, 1992, Armenian forces surrounded the town of Khojaly, telling civilians they would be allowed safe passage if they evacuated. As thousands left the town, Armenian troops opened fire. By the next morning, 613 innocent civilians had been murdered, including 63 children. Another 1,000 people were wounded and 1,275 taken hostage. To this day, 150 people from Khojaly remain missing.

Major media outlets covering the story in the following days described the massacre with horror:

- *The Sunday Times* reported the atrocity with the headline, "Armenian Soldiers Massacre Hundreds of Fleeing Families" (March 1, 1992).
- Newsweek magazine reported: "Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped" (March 16, 1992).
- *The New York Times* also described beheadings and acts of scalping (March 3, 1992).
- Time magazine called the actions against Khojaly "grim and unconscionable," reporting that many of those killed had been mutilated (March 16, 1992).
- *The Washington Times* wrote that video footage "backed accounts of the slaughter of women and children" (March 3, 1992).

In the most shocking admission of culpability, Armenia's then-defense minister Serge Sarkisian was quoted in the book "Black Garden" (by Tomas de Waal, NYU Press, 2003, page 85), as saying, "Before Khojaly the Azerbaijanis thought that... the Armenians were people who could not raise their hands against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype]."

Sarkisian became the new president of Armenia just this week.

To mark this act of genocide, February 26 is designated as a National Day of Mourning in Azerbaijan.

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Catholic Church, Ruined in Soviet Times, Reopens in Azerbaijan

Church Opening Fulfills Promise Made to the Late Pope John Paul II

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Vatican's No. 2 official presided over the reopening of a Catholic church in Azerbaijan's capital city on Friday that had been shut down for more than 70 years under previous Soviet rule.

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, addressing the ceremony in Baku, said, "The fact that representatives of all religions live as one family in Azerbaijan strengthens our country."

In his remarks, the Vatican's Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, said the event was "rich in meaning" and "will leave its mark in the annals of history."

The reopening fulfills a promise made to the late Pope John Paul II and Azerbaijan's Catholic community by the late President Heydar Aliyev to restore the parish that had been ruined by Soviet atheist authorities in the 1930s.

The neo-Gothic church, the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is located near the center of the country's capital of Baku. The late President Heydar Aliyev granted land to rebuild the church during Pope John Paul II's visit to Azerbaijan in May 2002.

"It was the most eloquent welcome," Bertone said. "It was proof of this desire to make religious tolerance a true pillar of the life of Azerbaijan."

Azerbaijan, a secular country with a majority Muslim population, is known for its religious tolerance. The country is home to a Catholic community of hundreds of parishioners, as well as vibrant Orthodox Christian and Jewish communities.

Located at a key geographic crossroads between Europe and Asia along the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan has for centuries been a flow-point for civilizations passing between East and West, North and South. Tolerance and understanding of different religions and cultures have thus been woven into the fabric of society, something that was reflected in Bertone's words on Friday.

"Civilization rests on a rock that is concrete—the serene coexistence of different religions," he said.

If you would like to sign up for the free, weekly newsletter from the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States, please visit www.azembassy.us and click on "Sign Up to Embassy Mailing List." Learn about current events in Azerbaijan and be the first to hear about events in the US sponsored by the Government of Azerbaijan.

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Foreign Diplomats, Ohio Officials Open Azerbaijani Cultural Garden in Cleveland

After Months Under Wraps, Cleveland Finally Gets a Look at Iconic Centerpiece Sculpture

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Amid rave reviews, Cleveland residents got their first look at the new, iconic sculpture that forms the centerpiece of the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden in the city's famed Cultural Gardens.

Today's event was held in commemoration of the 85th jubilee of the National Leader of Azerbaijan, the late President Heydar Aliyev.

Five years in the making, the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden and its contemporary sculpture, "Hearth" was unveiled today at a ceremony attended by the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States Yashar Aliyev, U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich, U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson. The event drew a crowd of citizens including Azerbaijani diaspora, officials, media representatives and schoolchildren.

"In Azerbaijan, the hearth holds a sacred place in the home," Ambassador Aliyev said. "It is a source of warmth, a place of gathering for the family, and a symbol of love. I have no doubt that the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden will be viewed similarly here in Cleveland, and that it will forever be among the city's favorite parks, where people of all nations can celebrate peace, mutual understanding and friendship."

The "Hearth" sculpture is a rounded funnel structure made of eight tons of highly polished stainless steel. The sculpture's curving form reflects the earth from its smooth sides and the sky from its gently sloping interior.

The installation is the creation of Azerbaijani artist Khanlar Gasimov, who now lives in Connecticut. He was inspired in part by 12th century poetry and 14th century philosophy from Azerbaijan, which since that time has served as a vital crossroads of civilizations, commerce and ideas.

Near the sculpture is a granite bench with an inscription etched into its stone: "Azerbaijan—land of eternal fire, ignites the imagination, warms the spirit and kindles the soul."

Congressman Kucinich recalled in his remarks America's motto of *e pluribus unum*: "Out of many, one."

"That really speaks to the spirit of this moment. This garden is a tribute to peace," Kucinich said. "This is a signal moment, not just for Cleveland but for Azerbaijan as well. What an honor it is for us all to be here."

Azerbaijan's inclusion in the Cultural Gardens is yet more affirmation of Cleveland's international composition.

"Cleveland has more than 75 different ethnic groups calling this city home," Mayor Jackson said in welcoming Azerbaijan's contribution to the Gardens. "This shows our diversity, our strength."

Today's ceremony was helmed by Dr. George Parras, a Cleveland physician and past president of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation. His support was instrumental in seeing the project through to today's opening ceremony.

"I hope that the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden and its sculpture 'Hearth,' will serve as a symbol of hope, peace, reflection and understanding for generations to come," Parras said.

Established in the early 1900s, the Cleveland Cultural Gardens are located in Rockefeller Park. Along its two-mile meandering parkway, some three dozen countries have established their own unique gardens celebrating peace and understanding among nations and cultures. Azerbaijan is the first new garden to open in two years and is located along Martin Luther King Dr., approximately one-half mile from the Rockefeller Park's north entrance.

Prepared by the Embassy of the Republic Azerbaijan to the United States

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